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ABSTRACT

This paper offers practical help to the busy professional who lacks the time to search the Internet for authoritative and appropriate information. The document is intended for upper elementary to junior college school librarians, public librarians, and teachers who are interested in using the Internet to help students with reports and homework assignments. Compiled by librarians at Mesa Public Library (Arizona) to assist students with homework and research needs, this comprehensive hypertext bibliography covers the most common and frustrating questions posed by students. Three steps were involved in compiling the Internet resources: assessing which subjects to cover, searching for sites, and evaluating the sites. Factors that were considered in selecting the sites included: currency, availability, reading level, language, source reliability, and subject popularity. The list of about 200 Internet sites are arranged by categories and subjects: careers; geography; government; history; literature; mathematics; medicine; Native American; news; science; social issues; and statistics. Each entry includes an Internet address and brief description of the site. Evaluation criteria for web sites is appended. (SWC)

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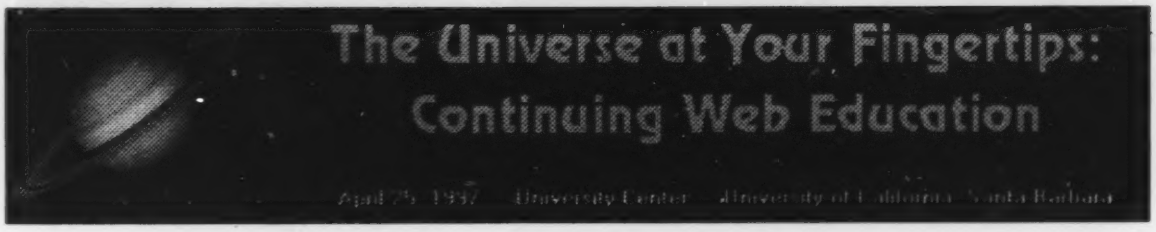


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# Brave the Wave: Using the Internet for Student Research

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## Abstract

This paper offers practical help to the busy professional who lacks the time to search the Internet for authoritative and appropriate information. The intended audience for this presentation ranges from upper elementary to junior college school librarians, public librarians, and teachers who are interested in using the Internet to help students with reports and homework assignments. The focus is on hard-to-find information, and the factors that were considered in selecting the sites were currency, availability, reading level, language, source reliability and subject popularity. All the sites that were selected for the presentation were evaluated by librarians who work in a large public library, using guidelines established by professional sources.

## Introduction

The Internet is not an easy tool to use at a reference desk. While offering seemingly limitless information, search results are not always comprehensive, readily found, or easily validated . Speed of connectivity and a lack of organization also present challenges. However, what makes it worthwhile in the reference arsenal are the benefits it offers over traditional sources: breadth (not aways depth), currency, statistics, and primary sources. Consequently, a busy library must determine how to use the net's strengths without being snared in its problems. One answer is to impose a structure based on your organization's reference needs.

At the Mesa Public Library, a large public library system serving 300,000 people, we determined that students would be a perfect target group for Internet use . These patrons often present the greatest challenges to both adult and youth services reference staffs. Many students are assigned the same topics at the same time, and their research often requires numerous sources in different formats. Because of this, students often encounter significant obstacles to completing their work. Materials are frequently

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checked-out, current information may not yet be published, and budgetary restrictions can limit collections, especially at branch libraries.

To assist librarians, we compiled a comprehensive hypertext bibliography covering the most common and frustrating questions posed by students. Three steps were involved in compiling these internet resources: assessing which subjects to cover, searching for sites, and evaluating those sites for inclusion in the bibliography.

## Assessment

The subjects included below were selected after surveying reference and youth services librarians in the Mesa Public Library system. They were asked to list topics that students commonly needed but were unable to obtain due to high demand, specialized subject matter or limited availability. Some subjects that fit these guidelines are not included in this list, however, because we could not find an adequate resource on the web. Dinosaurs, marine life, the Vietnam and Revolutionary wars, and adoption are a few examples of subjects for which we could not obtain comprehensive, informative web sites. In most cases, we attempted to locate "one-stop" resources - web pages that provided a wide scope for the topic covered, but we often list more than one citation for each area because each site added a little something that the others lacked.

## Searching

Our research required many hours using search engines, virtual library links, and specialized online subject bibliographies. We also used web evaluation tools, including books like *Internet Kids Yellow Pages* (Polly, 1996) and *Internet 101: a College Student Guide* (Glossbrenner, 1996) as well as online sites like Cyberhound and Lycos' Five Star Sites. Search engines and subject bibliographies were the most helpful in assessing sites. Most evaluation tools available on the internet itself were not helpful, since they frequently overrate colorful sites while neglecting less visually interesting pages containing more substantive information.

## Evaluation

It seems as though everyone has a web site these days. There are pages for businesses, the government, organizations, associations, universities and your next-door neighbor who wants to show off his new car. How does an information professional decide which internet sites offer helpful and accurate information for the student who needs it? In many cases, the criteria used to evaluate web resources is the same that is used to judge reference materials, but the very nature of the internet makes evaluating it as a reference source difficult and time-consuming. Many sites don't list the author, let alone the sources used to compile the page or the organization that sponsors it. At the same time, the ease and accessibility of the web make it an exciting and innovative resource for information that has not previously been available to the vast majority of us.

First of all, it's important to emphasize the need for knowledgeable professionals to evaluate internet resources. The quantity of sites alone, estimated to be anywhere from 400,000 to over one million, makes it necessary to sift, deselect and choose the most likely-looking candidates from any hit list. This can take hours using different search engines and search terms, pursuing links, and reading lists. In his article, "Beyond Cool: Analog Models for Reviewing Digital Resources," James Rettig concludes that the reviews and relevancy rankings many search engines and directories provide is uneven and superficial, based mostly on levels of "coolness," which is usually not defined (1996). Print review sources provide good information about web resources, but the number of available reviews falls far below the number of sites that need

evaluation. Children and young adults are even more short-changed. The review sources for youth generally discuss fun, unusual or "cool" sites without considering the helpfulness for their research and homework needs.

As stated earlier, most web sites are reviewed with the same criteria used to evaluate print materials, with some modifications to allow for the importance that graphics, access and ease-of-use have for this particular medium. Boyd Collins summarizes these criteria in six standards that have been developed for his reviewing of internet sources: content, authority, currency, organization, search engine, and accessibility (1996). Carolyn Caywood also judges web sites with these criteria but groups them in three general areas: access, design and content. Caywood, however, allows for more flexibility by stating that "few sites meet all criteria, so the benefits must be weighed against the lacks" (1996). It is certainly true that we demand more from the internet than it is able to provide, so "good" sites are simply the best we can find on a needed subject at the time.

The wonders of cyberspace lead to a discussion of the many possibilities inherent in the medium itself and how this impacts the criteria used in reviewing internet sites. In the past, publishers served as gatekeepers of information because they decided how, when, and even if materials would be published. Authors were screened, books were edited and reviewed and articles were given to peers to be checked before they were even available for the general public to review. The internet has changed the way we get our information because authors can now bypass publishers and reviewers, making their ideas, views and opinions available to us all. Although this, in fact, is what makes evaluating web resources all the more necessary, it brings up an interesting element to the reviewing: alternative viewpoints. Whether these are minority voices, revisionist history proponents, religious zealots, left-wing militants, or cultural elitists, they contribute much to a free exchange of ideas in our diverse society. The Native American and Social Problems are two examples of areas that have typically been censored or misunderstood in the publishing world. They are also some of the most needed subjects for student research. See each section for a detailed description of the special challenges in evaluating them.

When we selected the sites to help with students' research questions, we primarily looked at several criteria: content, authority, currency, organization, search engine, accessibility, graphics, and extra features on the site (see Appendix A). Not every site fit every one of the components, but we tried to find the best site possible for each subject listed. We divided the subjects into twelve general categories: Careers, Geography, Government, History, Literature, Mathematics, Medicine, Native Americans, News, Science, Social Issues and Statistics. The sites were selected and intended for students in upper elementary grades through junior college for use with homework and research needs.

## Biography:

Elizabeth Saliba is a Federal Documents Librarian at the Mesa Public Library in Mesa, Arizona. She obtained her M.L.I.S. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1984 and a B.A. degree in Social Studies from Scripps College in 1982. She is presently Chair for GODORT in Arizona, a board member for the Arizona State Library Association, and active in the Arizona Federal Depository Library Council.

## Biography:

Kellie Shoemaker is a Young Adult Specialist at the Mesa Public Library in Mesa, Arizona. She received her B.A. in English and Religion from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, in 1985, and her M.L.S. from Rutgers University in 1991. She is Secretary of the Arizona Librarian's Young Adult Services Roundtable of the Arizona Library Association and a member of the American Library Association.

Kellie Shoemaker and Elizabeth Saliba give our permission to the UCSB LAUC Conference Committee to publish our paper, "Brave the Wave: Using the Internet for Student Research," on "The Universe at Your Fingertips" Conference web page.

Kellie Shoemaker
Elizabeth Saliba

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# Internet Sites for Student Research

## Careers

*Most career sites on the Internet focus on resumes, career guidance and job searching, but these give helpful summaries of specific careers that students need for reports.*

**1996-97 Occupational Outlook Handbook**
*http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm*
The first choice for government information about a variety of careers.

**About Work: Career Database**
*http://www.aboutwork.com/career/alphasearch.html*
What is it like to be an accountant or a baseball player? Find out on this site, which provides plenty of careers to choose from.

**JobSmart--Specific Career Information**
*http://jobsmart.org/tools/career/spec-car.htm*
Links to Internet sites for specific career guides. Some are more useful than others, but the variety of jobs is good.

**Michigan Occupational Information System - Careers by Cluster**
*http://isd.ingham.k12.mi.us/mois/clusters.htm*
Similar to the OOH, but this has some careers not listed there, including many unusual jobs.

## Geography

Our goal in isolating sites was finding the most comprehensive single site for a topic. If this was impossible, we attempted to locate a combination of sources which provided balance to the subject. An example of this is found in the "Geography" category. Here, the different sources provide complementary information on countries, which should yield comprehensive reports. *Background Notes* and *World Information* (which links to the CIA's *World Factbook*), provide current and concise governmental, economic, and social information. In comparison, the Library of Congress's *Country Studies* are compiled by scholars and contain in-depth information regarding history, societal, and political structure for more than 70 countries. Under the category "Culture", Berkeley Public Library's links are a good place to investigate the religion, social customs and arts of a particular region. *Global Gastronomy* produced by Yale University provides direct access to information on food and recipes for most nations. Finally, the *Census International Database* provides demographic and socio-economic statistics for countries of the world. The Census Bureau compiled information from various governments' censuses and surveys in providing current, historic and future population counts.

## Christmas Around the World

**Yahoo!- Christmas: Christmas Around the World**
*http://www.yahoo.com/Society_Culture/Holidays/Christmas/Christmas_Around_the_World*
Some useful links can be found here, especially the "Christmas 'round the World" site.

## Cities

**Arizona Dept. of Commerce- Community Profiles**
*http://www.state.az.us/ep/fr_comm.shtml*
These 1-2 page reports describe the economy, history, population, and scenic attractions of the cities around Arizona.

**County and City Data Book**
*http://www.census.gov/stat_abstract/ccdb.html*
Provides lists of city rankings based on population, housing, poverty level, education, etc.

**Excite City.Net**
*http://www.city.net/*
A comprehensive site for cities of the world with a population of 100,000 or more.

**Visit a City with CityLink**
*http://usacitylink.com//visitcity.html* Here is a source which links to various cities' and chambers of commerce homepages. The information presented complements the coverage of CityNet and Arizona Community Profiles.

## Countries

**Background Notes - US Dept. of State**
*http:www.stat.gov/www/background_notes/index.html*
This source provides 3-5 pages of current demographic, political, historic, statistical and social information regarding various countries. Also available here are reports on global terrorism, human rights and international trade.

**Berkeley Public Library - Cultures**
*http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/bpl/bkmk/cultures.html*
Not just a culture stop, this site also provides excellent links to all aspects of the typical country report: history, government, and current events. Countries are indexed alphabetically past the "Cultures of the World" section.

**Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members of Foreign Governments**
*http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/chiefs/chiefs-toc-view.html*
Provides a list of current elected and appointed officials for various countries, including UN representatives and the US ambassador.

**Census International Database**

*http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/ipc/www/idbsum.html*

This is a source of demographic and socio-economic statistics for all countries of the world. The source combines country sources (censuses and surveys) with projections providing information from 1950-2050.

**Country Studies / Area Handbooks**

*http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html*

These are indepth reports written by scholars at the Library of Congress on various countries. Information includes extensive history, social structure, religion, education and regional issues. The dates for these publications run from 1988-present.

**Foreign Governments**

*http://www.library.new.edu/govpub/idtf/foreign.html*

This resource is maintained by ALA's GODORT International Documents Task Force and Northwestern University Library. It provides links to various governmental bodies for other countries.

**Web of Culture**

*http://www.worldculture.com/index.html* This site has some useful, hard-to-find country details on topics such as currency, gestures and body language, travel advisories, as well as links to other international WWW sites.

**World Information**

*http://www.classnet.com/world/*

This site contains links to World Factbook, world holidays, and a "country" search mechanism.

## Cultures

**All of the Embassies in Washington D.C.**

*http://www.embassy.org/embassies/eep-1100.html*

Country reports often require a description of the country, including its culture and places of interest for tourists. Embassies are an excellent source for these questions, especially for smaller countries.

**Berkeley Public Library - Cultures**

*http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex*

After the first section "Cultures of the World", this site is indexed alphabetically by country. It provides historical, governmental, and general country information links.

**The Global Gastronomer - Cuisine's of the World**

*http://www.cs.yale.edu/homes/hupfer/global/gastronomer.html* This source links to recipe sites around the world. For those country reports on Cameroon or Guyana, look no further.

**Yahoo!- Society and Culture: Cultures**
*http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Cultures/*
An extremely comprehensive source which provides links to many different cultures. It is indexed alphabetically by country and can provide 3-6 pages of information on such topics as traditions, history, music, and food.

## Holidays

**World Holidays Calendar**
*http://www.classnet.com/holidays/*
This source will list the dates and major holidays for each country.

**Yahoo!- Society and Culture: Holidays**
*http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Holidays/*
A great spot for information on the traditions and history of various holidays including Cinco de Mayo, Christmas, and Chinese New Years.

## International Organizations

**Background Notes - US Dept. of State**
*http:www.stat.gov/www.background_notes/index.html*
Background Notes can provide information on international organizations such as the United Nations, Organization of American States, and more.

**Multinational Organizations**
*http://www-lib.ipfw.indiana.edu/pirs/international/Multinational.html*
Provides information on G7 countries, Organization of American States, and more.

**Northwestern Library's International Organizations**
*http://www.library.nwu.edu/govpub/resource/internat/*
A comprehensive set of links to various significant political, economic, social and health organizations. This is definitely the place to start when looking for information about a particular organization.

## Maps

**How Far Is It?**
*http://www.indo.com/distance/*
Calculates the distance between places worldwide.

**National Geographic Map Machine**
*http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngo/maps/atlas/index.html*
A decent source for country and state maps but requires a laser printer for clarity when copying.

## States

**State Search- Sponsored by NASIRE**
*http://www.nasire.org/ss/index.html*
Provides links to many states' homepages. Also allow access to available state laws.

**Statistical Abstract of the U.S.**

*http://www.census.gov:80/stat_abstract/*

Provides some state rankings regarding population, health, education, social statistics.

**Yahoo!- Government: U.S. States**

*http://www.yahoo.com/Government/U_S_States/*

A great place to start looking for state government information. Contains links to various state governments' information sites.

## Government

*In the category of "Government", various sites are isolated to help with questions regarding biographical information and voting records of elected officials for state, federal, and country offices. The subcategory "Law, Legislation, & Court Decisions" provide links to sources for state laws; the U.S. Code, Code of Federal Regulations, Public Laws, and bills (via GPO Gate); U.S. Supreme Court decisions from 1937-1990, and the U.N. Treaties file which also contains the UN charter, a common student request.*

### Elected Officials

**Arizona Congressional Delegation**

*http://aspin.asu.edu/~pctp/azdeleg.html*

This site offers biographical and committee information for the Arizona Congressional Delegation. Also available is a map on which a student can click to locate one's congressional district.

**Find it on StateSearch**

*http://www.nasire.org/ss/index.html*

Provides links to information regarding the various states' legislatures. Many of these sites also allow access to the state laws, including Arizona.

**Maricopa County Government**

*http://www.maricopa.gov/supervisors/supervisors.html*

Contains biographical information on the Maricopa County Supervisors.

**State of Arizona WWW**

*http://www.state.az.us/*

Provides information on the legislative, judicial and executive branches of our state government including biographies of judges, and state agency links. If an Arizona state governmental entity exists, you'll find a link for it here.

**The United States Senate**

*http://www.senate.gov/*

This site makes available biographies of senators organized by state and name, a history of the senate, and committee information. The comprehensiveness of the biographies' coverage varies with each senator but often includes major legislation with which they have been involved.

**U.S. House Of Representatives**
*http://www.house.gov/*
This source offers biographies of representatives, house schedules, some legislative information, as well as places to write/e-mail one's respective elected official.

**VoteSmart Web**
*http://www.vote-smart.org/*
This is where to find how elected officials stand on issues such as affirmative action, abortion and health care.

### Laws, Legislation, & Court Decisions

**Arizona Legislative Information Service**
*http://www.azleg.state.az.us/*
Contains state laws, bills, and the Constitution. While the keyword search mechanism for the Arizona Revised Statutes is tricky to use, this is the only place one can obtain the text of state laws free online.

**GPO Gate at University of California**
*http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/*
This is the one stop shop for federal legislation and information. Available at this site are Public Laws recently passed, Code of Federal Regulations, United States Code, and Congressional Record. The complete text for these legal materials is available here, but the keyword search mechanism can make the process a challenge.

**State Search- Sponsored by NASIRE**
*http://www.nasire.org/ss/index.html*
Provides links to various states' sites which offer access to their laws.

**U.S. House of Representatives Internet Law Library**
*http://law.house.gov/*
Housed here are U.S. laws by agency, state and territorial links, and sources of international and treaty law.

**U.S. Supreme Court Decisions**
*http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/supct.table.html*
This offers access to recent and historic Supreme Court decisions (1937-90) by topic and keyword. Also provides links to biographical information on the Justices.

**UN Treaty Data Base**
*http://www.un.org/cgi-bin/treaty2.pl*
This site allows access to current treaties as well as the United Nations charter.. A table of contents and subject index is provided.

## History

*Good overviews of historical periods are hard to find on the Internet, but specific topics are easier with search engines. Wars, either world or American, tend to focus on*

*comrade searches or specific battles, which is why only the Civil War is included below. The US Civil War Center site has organized links for every aspect of the war, which makes it ideal for students with a wide variety of assignments. There are a few commercial sites included because they provide solid overviews of selected subjects.*

## Ancient Egypt

**Ancient Egypt--Culturenet**
*http://www.idsc.gov.eg/culture/index.htm*
Covers most aspects of ancient Egypt, including pyramids, religion, education, art, hieroglyphics and artifacts.

**NOVA Online/Pyramids/Table of Contents**
*http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/nova/pyramid/textindex.html*
Cool graphics (including diagrams and tours inside the different pyramids) and lots of solid information on pyramids, hieroglyphs and ancient Egypt.

## Ancient Greece

**MEDEA,THE MUSICAL - Greek / Attic / Hellenic Links**
*http://www.webcom.com/shownet/medeagrklink.html*
Numerous links to ancient world, including Greece, divided into categories. Areas of special note: classical maps, museum collections, literature and mythology.

**The Ancient Greek World Index**
*http://www.museum.upenn.edu/Greek_World/Index.html*
Daily life, economy, time periods, religion and mythology, athletics, death, and nice graphics of life in ancient Greece.

## Black History

**African American Pamphlets Home Page**
*http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html*
Primary documents spanning 100 years from the early 1800s through the early 1900s. Language barriers make this more appropriate for high school and college students.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University**
*http://www-leland.stanford.edu/group/King/*
Solid biographical information mixed with King's writings and civil rights work. Helpful links to other black history sites, too.

**Slave Narratives**
*http://vi.uh.edu/pages/mintz/primary.htm*
Riveting first-hand accounts of slaves in the United States -- the writings of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman are included.

**The African-American Mosaic**
*http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html*
Lengthy articles and original documents dealing with coloniation, abolition, migration and the WPA.

**The Faces of Science: African Americans in the Sciences.**
*http://www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/chem/display/faces.html*
Mathematicians, inventors, geneticists and oceanographers are just a few of the categories featured here. Both historical and contemporary biographies are included, some with pictures.

## Civil War

**The US Civil War Center**
*http://www.cwc.lsu.edu/civlink.htm*
Hundreds of links to civil war information grouped by subject. Short biographies, flags, battles (by state), and three pages of general information links are included.

## Colonial America

**An Outline of American History -- The Colonial Period**
*http://grid.let.rug.nl/~welling/usa/chap1.html*
12 chapters with information and illustrations. Links to maps and related terms and people are included.

**Colonial Williamsburg Almanack**
*http://www.history.org/almanack.htm*
Biographies, trades and crafts, religion, food and other aspects of colonial life are explored here. Excellent graphics!

**Plymouth: It's History and People**
*http://media3.com/plymouth/history/*
Information on Plymouth, the Mayflower, pilgrims, and biographical sketches of influential colonial people.

## General

**HyperHistory**
*http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html*
Good source for world history, timelines, people (with some portraits), maps, events, wars and more.

**Index of Resources for History**
*http://history.cc.ukans.edu/history/*
More than 1700 links to history sites, arranged alphabetically by subject and name.

**Notable Citizens of Planet Earth**
*http://www.tiac.net/users/parallax*
Contains short biographical entries on over 18,000 people from ancient to modern times. Can be searched using keywords, dates or name variations.

**US Historical Documents**
*http://www.law.uoknor.edu/ushist.html*
Documents include charters, constitutional items, biographies, proclamations, treaties, and inaugural addresses, arranged chronological by century.

## Holocaust

**Holocaust Glossary: Terms, Places and Personalities**
*http://www.wiesenthal.com/resource/gloss.htm*
Short definitions of important Holocaust terms.

**The Holocaust: a Historical Summary**
*http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/tdnguyen/holocaust.txt*
This historical overview, from the Israel Information Office, provides the context and background for studying the Holocaust.

**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**
*http://www.ushmm.org/*
For good historical information, see "Learning About the Holocaust" on the home page.

## Middle Ages and Renaissance

**NetSERF**
*http://www.cua.edu/www/hist/netserf/home.htm*
Has direct links to sites relating to medieval studies, with information on architecture, literature, religion, music, law and art.

**Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.**
*Http://www.sca.orgl*
See "Arts and Sciences," "Customs," and "ChivalrousArts" for the most information relating to the Middle Ages.

**Virtual Renaissance**
*http://www.twingroves.district96.k12.il.us/Renaissance/VirtualRen.html*
See the Renaissance world through the eyes of different characters in this fun and informative site. Produced by students and teachers with full bibliography provided.

## Witchcraft

**Salem Witch Museum Education - Salem, Massachusetts**
*http://www.salemwitchmuseum.com/learn.html*
Historical information about the witch trials, Roger Conant and Salem.

**Salem Witch Trials Chronology**
*http://www.star.net/salem/memorial/default.htm*
Also see links to the Salem witch memorials for pictures and more information.

# Literature

*Literature abounds on the Internet — and most of it can be downloaded full-text! Criticism, biographies, author pages, comparisons, essays, and more — and it's all relatively easy to find. We've isolated some of the most comprehensive sites to help the most-often asked questions from all ages of students.*

## General

**Beyond the MLA Handbook (Harnack/Kleppinger)**
*http://falcon.eku.edu/honors/beyond-mla/#citing_sites*
Gives the proper way to cite Internet sources and CD-ROM's, including www, gopher, ftp, and more.

**Book Stacks - Author's Pen**
*http://www.books.com/scripts/authors.exe*
Need information about authors who aren't in standard sources? This site has links to more than 675 author pages.

**Campfire Stunt and Skit Book**
*http://www.dfc.com/scouts/skitbook.htm*
Contains complete scripts to five pages of lists.

**Children's Authors & Illustrators, and their Books**
*http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors.html*
The place to start for children's literature studies, authors and resources on the web.

**Voice of the Shuttle: English Literature**
*http://humanitas.ucsb.edu/shuttle/english.html*
Author information, criticism and texts of novels, short stories and poetry from works written in English, including British, American, Australian, Irish, African and more. Spans medieval to contemporary literature.

## Mythology and Folklore

**Bulfinch's 'The Age of Fable' - Table of Contents**
*http://www.webcom.com/shownet/medea/bulfinch/welcome.html*
The classic is now available on the Internet -- with illustrations.

**Greek Mythology**
*http://www.intergate.net/uhtml/.jhunt/greek_myth/greek_myth.html*
Another source for Greek mythology, this site has smaller entries and fewer illustrations, making it more concise and easier to use than some.

**Mythology, Folklore, and a little bit of Religion**
*http://www.su.swin.edu.au/~abaddon/myths2.html*
Links to everything -- grouped by country, region and theme, both for general and specific sites.

**Of Gods and Men: the A to Z of Mythology and Legend**
*http://www.clubi.ie/lestat/godsmen.html*
Encyclopedia entries encompassing many cultures and stories, with some illustrations. Excellent site for Greek Mythology.

**The Encyclopedia Mythica**
*http://www.pantheon.org/mythica/*
Mythology, folklore, legends and more, with short entries.

### Shakespeare

**Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet**
*http://www.palomar.edu/Library/shake.htm*
A guide to Shakespeare resources including biographical materials, his works in full-text, criticism, the Renaissance, and Elizabethan performance.

## Mathematics

*Under the category " Mathematics", two sites help with a wide range of typical questions — from fractions to calculus — based on grade level. The History of Mathematics sponsored by the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom is especially useful for the information on famous mathematicians and common report subjects such as the history of prime numbers or the development of pi.*

### General

**Ask Dr. Math**
*http://forum.swarthmore.edu/dr.math/*
Indexes commonly asked math questions and answers by grade level: grade school, high school, and beyond. The information covers everything from fractions to calculus.

**Mathematics Archives WWW Server**
*http://archives.math.utk.edu/index.html*
This site offers a search mechanism by which one can enter keywords to locate links to relevant sites. Each search result is designated by information levels, from high school through college in assisting with the ever-challenging math reference questions.

### History

**History of Mathematics**
*http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk:80/~history/*
Sponsored by the University of St. Andrews in the United Kingdom, this source provides a wealth of information on the subject of the history of mathematics including basic subject such as pi and prime numbers. The most helpful sections include the "history" and "biography" search mechanisms.

# Medicine

*Medicine is a challenging topic for the nonscientist and young students because the information generated, especially for uncommon conditions, often is extremely technical. Under the "Medicine" in this bibliography, some sites contain exclusively nontechnical sources, while others provide a combination of basic and technical material. The disease sites include three excellent links that often use simple language and trustworthy sources in explaining concepts. Jonathan Tward's Multimedia Medical Reference Library is a commercial site sponsored by a medical software company and compiled by a physician. The indexing is facilitated by an alphabetical index of medical categories and a general search mechanism for the site. Searching under the heading "comprehensive information", one can choose a category such as "infectious diseases" to investigate frequent student topics on subjects such as cholera, hepatitis, and AIDS. Furthermore, the information is provided by quality sources (medical school, hospitals, and governmental departments of health) often on a patient's reading level. The Kidshealth link is produced by a foundation operating the DuPont Children's Hospital in Delaware. The site links to fact sheets written for parents covering illnesses common to children (as well as younger students' report topics), such as chickenpox, measles, and ringworm. The World Health Organization complements the coverage of the previous two sources by reporting information on emerging and communicable diseases occurring internationally, such as the ebola virus or diphtheria.*

## AIDS - General Info. & Statistics

**Center for Disease Control - AIDS/HIV**
*http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/dhap.htm*
An excellent source of current AIDs information including both statistics and general information. However, many files require Adobe Acrobat PDF reader which can be downloaded free from the Internet.

**National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease**
*http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/facts.htm*
Provides good medical information on the subject of AIDS/HIV including vaccines, research, and treatment.

## Dental Health

**American Dental Association**
*http://www.ada.org/co-menu.html*
Here are different articles dealing with general aspects of dental health such as nutrition, gum disease, and dental procedures.

**Healthtouch- Dental Health**
*http://www.healthtouch.com/level1/leaflets/101228/101228.htm*
This site describes general subjects from plaque to braces. Provides basic but useful information.

## Diseases

**Internet Mental Health - Disorders**
*http://www.mentalhealth.com/fr20.html*
A comprehensive index of mental health disorders. Provides an in-depth definition, treatment, symptoms, fulltext article links and some pamphlets. On the average, this source can provide 3-5 pages of information for each illness.

**JonathanTward's Multimedia Medical Reference Library**
*http://www.med-library.com/*
Absolutely the best one stop research site when looking for information on a particular disease. Select "comprehensive info," then "infectious diseases" for an alphabetic list which contains links to good sources of information. One could obtain 1-6 pages of information per topic.

**Kidshealth- Childhood Infections**
*http://kidshealth.org/parent/common/*
This is a place which provides information on topics from measles to chickenpox. Most childhood illnesses are covered here.

**World Health Organization - Main Menu**
*http://www.who.ch/whosis/whosis.htm#topics*
Past the "general topics" section, this WHO site offers informationon various "emerging" and tropical diseases.

## Drugs of Abuse - Physiological Effects

*Another popular, yet challenging, report topic is drug abuse. Under the "Medicine" category the comprehensive Web of Addictions links to fact sheets on the physiological and psychological effects of various illicit drugs produced by various reputable drug abuse organizations and research institutes.*

**Schick Shadel Hospital**
*http://aaw.com/schick/index.html*
Schick Shadel Treatment Center offers information on the many popular drugs of abuse. Articles are thorough in discussing the symptoms and consequences of abuse.

**Web of Addictions**
*http://www.well.com/user/woa/facts.htm*
Contains fact sheets for drugs of abuse from the most esteemed organizations such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Addictions Research Foundation. The primary focus is on the physiological affects of drug use.

## Health

**Dept. of Agriculture -1995 Dietary Guidelines for Americans**
*http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/dietguid/*
Provides the text of the nutritional guidelines produced by the Depts. of Agriculture and Health & Human Services. This site also links together useful nutrition-oriented sites.

**Dept. of Health & Human Services Consumer Information**
*http://odphp2.osophs.dhhs.gov/consumer.htm#subjects*
This is a place which links to various health topics from AIDS to mental health. The sites to which it links are informational sources within the federal government and will provide general and in many cases statistical information on health subjects of interest to citizens.

**Mayo Clinic Library**
*http://www.mayo.ivi.com/ivi/mayo/common/htm/library.htm*
Basic fact sheets are provided by the Mayo Clinic on many general health issues regarding diet, exercise, and health care.

### Tobacco/Nicotine

**Nicotine and Tobacco Network**
*http://www.ahsc.arizona.edu/nicnet/index.shtml*
This site provides links to information regarding the health consequences of smoking."Tobacco Library" is the best place to start. Potential source of 5-10 pages of information on the subject.

## Native American

*Native American culture is not a recorded one; most materials on our shelves are written by Anglos who have observed, studied or read about a culture that is not their own. There are very few Native Americans who have the credentials or the "authority" to write books about their own culture, so traditionally we have had to rely on information that many Indian tribes would not consider an accurate representation of their histories. The Internet has enabled this group of Americans to organize, exchange and publish information about themselves, and the sites listed below are good representatives of this process. Their "authorities" are the tribes and people themselves. The Compact Histories site, for example, routinely sends data to specific tribes for revision and accuracy and invites visitors to the site to submit information for review .*

**Compact Histories**
*http://www.dickshovel.com/Compacts.html*
Although this site is not complete, it provides lots of tribal history and culture. A good place to check first for Native American info.

**Indigenous Peoples' Literature**
*http://www.indians.org/welker/natlit2a.htm*
Biographies and stories abound on this page -- along with many links to North and South American Indian sites.

**Native American Home Pages**
*http://www.pitt.edu/%7Elmitten/indians.html*
Provides links to pages sponsored by each tribe or devoted to information about the tribe.

## News

**Christian Science Monitor**

*http://www.csmonitor.com/plweb-cgi/iops1.pl*

This site allows archival searching for those news events taking place from the present through the past year. This is especially helpful in covering the gap between standard CD-ROM periodical indexes and the current week-only Internet coverage provided by the popular news services (CNN, USA Today, etc.). The Monitor is best suited for events of international significance.

**San Francisco Chronicle**

*http://www.sfgate.com/wais/search/arch-pro.html*

Here is where to locate news events of a national focus taking place from the present back through the past year. Most of the stories covered take place in California or the US. This, too, is helpful in covering the gap between the current popular news sites which cover only the present week and the CD-ROM or paper indexes, which can be six weeks to two months behind.

## Science

*Within the "Science" category, the subcategory "animals" helps with student questions regarding specific and sometimes rare animals. When the questions involve monkeys or tigers, it's often not difficult to find information available in print within the library book or magazine collection. However, when the student has been assigned spider monkeys or bush babies, the Internet can be useful. The Birmingham Zoo is a site which links to and indexes a variety of good animal sites such as the Animal Diversity Web and the Big Cats Page, for example. The Oakland and Phoenix Zoo provide comprehensive coverage of specific animals one would expect to find at a zoo including Bengal tigers, flamingos, and in the case of the Phoenix Zoo, rattlesnakes, scorpions, etc.*

### Animals

**Birmingham Zoo Search**

*http://www.bhm.tis.net/zoo/search/wwwwais.cgi*

The Birmingham Zoo allows searching by popular or scientific name. The search mechanism is easy to use and the coverage comprehensive.

**Internet Resource Guide for Zoology - Guide by animal group**

*http://www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/gp_index.htm#insects*

This site covers many different animal groups and is a good place to visit when others fail.

**Oakland Zoo Animals- A to Z**

*http://www.oaklandzoo.org/oz/zoo/atoz/atoz.html*

Offers one page, yet comprehensive coverage of animals typically found at a zoo.

**Phoenix Zoo - Animal Information**

*http://aztec.asu.edu/phxzoo/anm_info.html*

Useful for animals found at the Phoenix Zoo, many which represent the southwest. Approximately one page each.

**University of California Web Lift to Taxa**

*http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/help/taxaform.html*

By entering the dinosaur link Archosauria, one can obtain information on different prehistoric animals.

**Whales on the Net - Discovering Whales**

*http://whales.magna.com.au/DISCOVER/menud.html*

This is a place to find those varied types of whales, from baleen to sperm.

## Astronomy

*Under the category "Astronomy", the Nine Planets compiled by the University of Arizona, provides extensive planetary information with links within each subject. For example, for Saturn there are links within the article on the mythology and history of exploration as well as physical details including its moons. For help with questions involving space flight, the Views of the Solar System delineates a chronology of exploration for the sun and various planets. Also included is a general history of space exploration which begins with basic rocketry of the Chinese and covers the major events through the present.*

**The Nine Planets**

*http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/nineplanets.html*

Not only does this site extensively discuss planets, but also their various moons, comets, asteroids, spacecraft, terminology and space science. Each article also provides relevant links to specific details. Try here first for astronomy questions.

**Views of the Solar System**

*http://bang.lanl.gov/solarsys/toc.htm*

This is an excellent source for the history of space flight as well as information concerning planets. The information is organized first by planets and then by history in general.

## Biography

*The next section under science is "Biography" which contains the History of Science, Technology, & Medicine out of the University of Melbourne. This is where to locate information on an incredible variety of scientists and historic scientific events.*

**History of Science, Technology, & Medicine - Biographies**

*http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/hstm/hstm_bio.htm*

This is an extremely comprehensive site. Provides an alphabetical indexe as well as a keyword search engine. Biographies are 1-2 pages with links inks.

## Chemistry

*Under "Chemistry" are isolated three sources of information which assist students with three to five page element reports. Each site provides complementary and distinct information*

**A Periodic Table of the Elements at Los Alamos National Laboratory**
*http:I/cst.lanl.gov/julie/imagemap/periodic/periodic.htm*
Provides good, general information for those element reports on topics such as history, sources, compounds and uses.

**Elementistory**
*http://smallfry.dmu.ac.uk/chem/periodic/elementi.html*
This source will list a brief chronology of the history of many elements. Indexed via a periodic table.

**Web Elements**
*http://www2.shef.ac.uk/chemistry/web-elements/web-elements-home.html*
Provides 2-3 pages of information regarding the different chemical elements. The coverage includes general, chemical, biological, toxic information, some of it numerical in nature. It is indexed via the periodic table.

## Current Events

**EurekAlert! Search Page**
*http://www.eurekalert.org/*
Here is where the latest discoveries in scientific research can be found. Indexed by field of science, this source lists various citations of articles, many of which are available fulltext and describe some of the latest in biomedicine, chemistry, math.

**Why Files of the National Science Foundation**
*http://whyfiles.news.wisc.edu/index.html*
This is a place to find science articles on topics in the news yet written on a grade school to junior high level. The information under the "why files" is especially helpful.

## Earthquakes

**Earthquake Information from the US Geological Survey**
*http://quake.wr.usgs.govl*
Provides good, general information under "More About Earthquakes as well as detailing hazards and preparation for quakes. Also provides good links to institutions studying quakes.

**U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center**
*http://wwwneic.cr.usgs.gov/*
Especially good is the information under "General Seismicity Information, which includes earthquake lists (most destructive, earthquakes by year),general information on the phenomena of earthquakes (up to 3 pages per topic), as well as plate tectonics and its relation to the quakes.

## Endangered Species - Animals

*"Endangered Species" is the subcategory which provides links to lists of endangered and extinct species as well as fact sheets describing the animals and what is being done to attempt to save them.*

**EE-Link-Endangered Species**
*http://www.nceet.snre.umich.edu/EndSpp/Endangered.html*
This is an extremely thorough, quality spot for US and international lists of endangered and extinct species as well as general factsheets on endangered animals.

**Endangered Species Home Page**
*http://www.fws.gov/~r9endspp/endspp.html*
This source lists animals and plants designated to be endangered in the United States. Indexed geographically and alphabetically.

**National Wildlife Federation**
*http://www.nwf.org/nwf/endangered*
This is where to find a general discussion for school age children on why species are disappearing and what one can do to work toward change. Reading level is geared toward grade school.

**World Conservation Monitoring Centre - 1996 Animal Redlist**
*http://www.wcmc.org.uk:80/species/animals/animal_redlist.html*
This is a forms searchable database of the world list of threatened animals. One can find here lists of threatened animals around the world.

## Energy

**Energy Infodisc - Dept. of Energy**
*http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub_tbl.html*
This site covers special reports which provide statistics and information regarding the use of energy. It is best geared toward high school students.

**Energy Quest -- Energy Education from the California Energy Commission**
*http://www.energy.ca.gov/energy/education/*
The California Energy Commission has created a place for students to obtain useful, basic information on the various forms of energy.

**Franklin Institute's Hotlist: Energy**

*http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/energy.html*
This science museum provides useful links to information and activities related to the various forms of energy. Geared for grade school through high school.

## Environment

**Chemicals In the Environment: OPPT Chemical Fact Sheets**
*http://www/epa.gov/docs/chemfactl*
Indexes potentially toxic chemicals by chemical name. The coverage complements the Hazardous Chemical Fact Sheets of the Agency for Toxic Substance & Drug Registry site. Information on the dangers and safe exposure to the various chemicals is indexed by chemical name.

**Congressional Research Service Reports on the Environment**
*http://www.cnie.org/nle/crs_main.html*
The Commission for the Natural Institute on the Environment offers for free these Congressional Research Service reports. Topics covered range from grazing rights to oil spills. Content is appropriate for high school through community college level research.

**EnviroLink Library**
*http://www.envirolink.org/EnviroLink_Library/*
Links to scores of sites on every aspect of the environment, including general information, organizations and publications available on the Internet. Use the alpha option for easier searching.

**Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets**
*http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/toxfaq.html*
These fact sheets originate from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. They provide information regarding the dangers of certain substances and the "safe" exposure levels for humans. Access to the chemicals is offered via common and chemical names.

**Natural Resources Defense Council**
*http://www.igc.apc.org/nrdc/world.html*
This is a place to obtain interesting, timely articles on major subjects of ecological concern, such as global warming, water resources, and pollution.

**US Environmental Protection Agency: students and teachers**
*http://www.epa.gov/epahome/students.htm*
Easy to understand information about different kinds of pollution.

**US Geological Survey Fact Sheets Home Page**
*http://h2o.usgs.gov/public/wid/indexlist.html*
This site is useful in providing general information on topics regarding the environment and natural resources.

## Global Warming

**Global Climate Change Information Program**
*http://www.doc.mmu.ac.uk/aric/gccinfo.html*
Here the student will find more articles on the various aspects of global warming. The reading level of the information provided is suited to students from grade school through high school.

**United Nations Climate Change Fact Sheets-INDEX**
*http://www.unep.ch/iucc/fs-index.html#causes*
Provides comprehensive articles on the subject of global warming. The topics focus on the causes of climate change and the role of humans in this problem. Geared for high school students and above.

## History

**WWWVL History of Science, Technology and Medicine**
*http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/hstm/hstm_ove.htm*
A comprehensive site which covers the history of science, medicine, and technology. Provides information and links to other sources and can be a busy place, but it is worth the wait.

## Insects

**Entomology Index of Internet Resources**
*http://www.ent.iastate.edu/List/*
Provides an index to various etymological sites on the entire Internet. Simply enter the insect of choice in the search box. Hits listed under the category "Electronic Publications" are especially helpful. Reading level is geared toward high school students.

**Gordons Entomological Home Page**
*http://www.ex.ac.uk/~gjlramel/welcome.html*
Gordon's Entomological Page provides links to articles from reputable texts on a variety of different insects.

## Inventors & Inventions

**The Lemelson-MIT Prize Program: Inventor of the Week Archives**
*http://web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/i/invent/www/archive.html*
Describes the lives of some famous US inventors in 1-2 pages.

**The National Inventors Hall of Fame**
*http://www.invent.org/book/index.html*
A comprehensive source of one-page articles on inventions and inventors, indexed alphabetically.

## Pregnancy

**University of Pennsylvania Embryo Development**
*http://www.med.upenn.edu/embryo_project/embryo.html*

This site at the University of Pennsylvania provides excellent coverage of the various stages of fetal development. Some of the initial stages are rather technical, but the information regarding the weekly development of the fetus are extremely useful for reports.

## Rain Forests

**Rainforest Action Network**
*http://www.ran.org/ran/info_center/index.html*
Offers statistical as well as general information on the significance of rainforests and the problem of their depletion around the world. Can easily provide 3-5 pages of information on the subject.

## Rocks & Minerals

**Minerals by Name**
*http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/by_ name.htm*
A good source for basic information on minerals indexed by name. Approximately one page in length, with some links.

## Science Projects

**Franklin Institute Science Activities**
*http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/activity/act-summ.html*
This home of the Franklin Institute Science Museum provides simple project for developing scientists for grades K-8.

**NASA Teacher Resource Center Activities**
*http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/WWW/K-12/TRC/TRCactivities.html*
This NASA site provides some simple aeronautical and rocketry projects for students.

## Volcanoes

**Cascades Volcano Observatory**
*http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/home.html*
Offers excellent coverage of volcano features and hazards, and information regarding the history of eruptions in the Cascade Mountain Region (1-2pages). Also provides a subject index to various volcano-related topics such as volcano monitoring.

**Michigan Technological University Volcanoes Page**
*http://www.geo.mtu.edu/volcanoes/*
This site provides links to information regarding various active international volcanoes. Two especially useful sections are "Recent & Ongoing Activity" and the "World Reference Map," which is indexed geographically by continent. One could obtain 1-3 pages of information per volcano. Reading level is best suited to high school students.

**Volcanoes of the World**
*http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/volc_of_world.html*

This site lists the most recent eruptions, information on volcanoes in the world by region (includes some historic text), and describes volcanoes on other planets in our solar system. From the home page you can also search "Volcano World" by the name of volcano.

### Water

**Hydrology-Related Internet Resources**
*http://terrassa.pnl.gov:2080/EESC/resourcelist/hydrology.html*
Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Laboratory of the US Dept. of Energy, this is a one stop shop for information on water.

### Weather

**Storm Chaser Homepage**
*http://taiga.geog.niu.edu/chaser.html*
Provides information regarding techniques, career information, and relevant links to other pages.

## Social Issues

*By their very nature, social issues are filled with controversy. Many of the books written for children and young adults interpret difficult issues in our society, but often these sources are missing from the library shelves or are inadequate for an in-depth study of the subject. Publishers shy away from supporting opinionated resources, so the materials usually present both sides of an issue, which can be frustrating for students trying to find material for argumentative essays or debates. The Internet presents many, many viewpoints on a variety of topics – so many viewpoints and so many topics that searching for usable sites goes beyond difficult to frustrating. Evaluating them demands even more stamina, simply because the number of "little guys" with an opinion is overwhelming. However, this kind of information can be extremely helpful to students looking for attitudes, opinions and arguments, and the evaluation criteria may have to be revised to allow for a diverse exchange of ideas from a variety of minority (and often strange) viewpoints. "Moral Debates of Our Times" is a particularly helpful site for all social issues related to death and society. It is produced by Professor Michael Kearn at Trinity University, whose "Sociology of Death" page (link at bottom) is equally fascinating.*

### Abortion

**Abortion**
*http://www.tcom.ohiou.edu/OU_Language/project-abortion.html*
Links to both sides of the issue in one place with annotations for each site.

**Moral Debates of Our Times: Abortion**
*http://www.Trinity.edu/~mkearl/death-5.html#*
Examines abortion from a neutral position with information on attitudes and links to organizations that are pro-life and pro-choice.

**United States: Abortion**
*http://www.echonyc.com/~jmkm/wotw/us.abortion.html*
History, outline and sources of reproductive law for six countries, including the U.S.

## Animals Rights

**Animal Research Data Base**
*http://www.fcs.uga.edu/~mhulsey/GDB.html*
Provides statistics, surveys, quotes, examples and legislative information to support animal research.

**Animal Rights Resource Site**
*http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/*
Essays, links, information and encouragement to support animal rights arguments.

## Death Penalty

**Amnesty International -- Death Penalty**
*http://www.amnesty.org/ailib/intcam/dp/dpfacts.htm*
International statistics regarding the use of the death penalty, including the US.

**Death Penalty**
*http://www.acusd.edu/ethics/death_penalty.html*
An excellent source for both pro and con arguments regarding the death penalty. Provides full-text articles and has some useful links to other sites.

**Death Penalty Information Center**
*http://www.essential.org/dpic/*
This site provides statistics and information against using the death penalty.

**Death Penalty Timeline**
*http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/angel/timeline.html*
A brief chronology of the history of capital punishment in the U.S.

## Euthanasia

**DeathNET STUDENT RESEARCH CENTER**
*http://www.islandnet.com/~deathnet/student.html*
Gives help and information for students researching euthanasia and assisted suicide from every point of view.

**Moral Debates of Our Times: Euthanasia**
*http://www.Trinity.Edu/~mkearl/death-5.html#eu*

Defines the controversy in our society, analyzes attitudes, gives references to legal rulings, and provides links to other organizations.

## Gangs

**Gang Information Resource Guide for Parents and Teachers**
*http://www.upsd.wednet.edu/UPSD/CHS/ganghand.html*
Gang signs, graffiti, rules and behavior are explained in this great resource from Curtis High School. Sources and bibliography are included.

**Gangs in Schools**
*http://eric-web.tc.columbia.edu/digests/dig99.html*
*This ERIC Digest provides some basic information about* the psychology of gangs and why kids join them. A good overview.

## Gun Control

*Searching this topic requires some tricky uses of search terms, depending on the focus of the information needed. "Gun control" is limiting; if more sites are needed, try terms like "gun violence," "gun rights," or "Second Amendment."*

**Coalition to Stop Gun Violence**
*http://www.gunfree.inter.net/csgv/welcome.htm*
Facts about guns, crime and gun-related statistics. Also lists state and federal laws regarding guns.

**National Rifle Association Home Page**
*http://www.nra.orgl*
NRA sponsored information concerning the right to bear arms.

## Hate and Militia Groups

*Both of these sites allow direct links with militia and hate groups, which can be highly offensive. The sites themselves contain much information about the psychology and philosophy of the groups, and both are highly acclaimed as experts in these fields.*

**HateWatch Inc.**
*http://hatewatch.org/*
Numerous links to skinheads, revisionists, neo-Nazis, white nationalists and other hate groups' home pages. The introduction provides background information.

**The Militia Watchdog**
*http://www.militia-watchdog.org*
Contributors include journalists and scholars with articles and essays on the militia movement.

## Statistics

*The Internet is one of the best places to locate a variety of timely statistical data. Frequently organizations and governmental entities will place information online before distributing a print copy. In some cases they will avoid the cost of printing by exclusively placing the data on the Web or at gopher sites. This is becoming increasingly true of the U.S. Government. Therefore, it's important for informational professionals to develop a strategy for isolating statistics within the maze of the Internet. In locating U.S. statistics compiled by the federal government, the best place to start is with the Statistical Abstract. After determining the item of interest by using the subject index, at the bottom of each table the agency responsible for the data and the title of the publication is cited. By using a general search engine or federal information search engine such as the Government Web Finder out of Villanova or the Government Information Locator Service provided by the GPO, you can look for the agency and search its publications or data files. Another option is to search for the title of the document.*

*For nongovernmental or international queries, determine which organizations might compile relevant information. For example, when looking for aids statistics it is likely the World Health Organization would compile trustworthy tallies. When seeking international death penalty statistics, Amnesty International would be a likely source.*

*Within the bibliography we created, sites have been isolated in various categories common to student reports, such as education, crime, health, and youth statistics. The Social Statistics Briefing Room is organized and maintained by the White House staff and links to agency materials which cover frequently requested statistics such as literacy and dropout rates, crime trends, population, and more. It also allows links to the various reports from which the White House extracted the information.*

### Accidents - Statistics

**National Safety Council**
*http://www.nsc.org/lrs/statstop.htm*
Here one can find statistics on domestic and international accidents and trends. The information analyzes the number, cost and cause of the injuries.

### AIDS - Statistics

**Center for Disease Control - HIV/AIDS Surveillance Reports**
*http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/stats/hasrlink.htm*
This source will provide extensive statistics on the AIDS situation in the United States. The tabular and graphical information provided include the number of cases reported by state, city, sex, race, and age. The most current report indexed requires Adobe Acrobat software to copy; however, previous issues are available in ASCII.

**Current Statistics: HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report and PAHO Report**
*http://cdcnac.org:72/1/4*
Provides AIDS statistics from the Center for Disease Control.

**NIAID Fact Sheet- Nat. Institute of Health**
*http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/aidsstat.htm*

Provides summary statistics for international and domestic AIDS trends.

## Alcohol - Use & Statistics

**National Center for Alcoholism and Drug Dependency - Facts Directory**

*http://www.ncadd.org/factsdir.html*

Here is a brief compilation on statistics regarding the use of alcohol and drugs by women and youth, substance-abuse related birth defects, and more. Within each subject, links are provided to more extensive reports on the topic.

## Capital Punishment - Statistics

**Death Penalty Information Center - (Costs)**

*http://essential.org/dpic/costs.html*

Death Penalty Information Center has compiled statistics from selected states around the country in arguing the expense of capital punishment.

**Death Penalty Information (from: http://www.soci.niu.edu/~critcrim)**

*http://sun.soci.niu.edu/~critcrim/dp/dp.html*

Provides access to the US Department of Justice annual report, Capital Punishment. This source describes demographic and criminal justice information regarding the use of the death penalty.

## Crime - Statistics

**Bureau of Justice Statistics home page**

*http://149.101.22.3/bjs/*

This site provides a myriad of crime statistics and reports detailing handgun crimes, carjacking, school crime, elderly victims (under the heading Victims & Crimes); the World Factbook of criminal Justice Systems, firearms and crimes of violence (under the heading Special Topics).

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

*http://www.fbi.gov/homepage.htm*

The FBI homepage links to two significant statistical sources: Crime Statistics (describing the nature and number of crimes) and Hate Crimes (describing the number and location of hate crimes). This site also informs of recent high profile investigations such as the Olympic bombing and the TWA plane crash in New York.

**Uniform Crime Reports - 1995**

*http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr95prs.htm*

Provides a morass of general crime statistics and trends.

**US Dept. of Justice - Sourcebook**

*http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/*

Provides a variety of different criminal justice statistics such as characteristics of public criminal justice forces, nature of crimes and

offenders, geography of crimes committed, as well as corrections information and public opinion regarding crime.

## Drug Abuse - Statistics

**National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information**
*http://www.health.org/survey.htm*
Provides excellent statistics relating to drug abuse trends in the United States, especially in the National Household Drug Abuse Survey and the Dawn Report.

## Economics - Statistics

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**
*http://stats.bls.gov:80/eag.table.html*
This site offers the latest unemployment, wage, and cost of living statistics.

**Economic Statistics Briefing Room**
*http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/esbr.html*
This White House site provides an overview of various government agencies' economic statistics, including the topics GDP, corporate profits, personal consumption expenditures, consumer and producer price indexes, unemployment rates, international trade, and income and poverty rates.

## Education - Statistics

**National Center for Education Statistics**
*http://nces01.ed.gov/pubsearch/indreport.idc?1*
Here you can link to two comprehensive sources for educational statistics in the U.S. The Digest of Education Statistics & Condition of Education which provide information on student/teacher ratios, literacy rates, pupil and teacher demographic profiles, and much more.

## General

*Under the subcategory "general statistics", there are links to Statistical Abstracts, the home page for the U.S. Census which provided social, economic, educational and health statistics. Also listed is the University of Michigan's Statistical Resources on the Web which is a virtual library of links to wide range of categories including agriculture, science, and international sites.*

**Census- Subjects A-Z**
*http://www.census.gov/main/www/subjects/html*
Covers a vast number of topics such as crops, computer use, population projections and estimates, and poverty. The Census tallies many social, health, economic and educational statistics.

**Census International Database**

*http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/ipc/www/idbsum.html*

Provides demographic and socio-economic statistics for countries aroundt he world.

**Fedstats**

*http://www.fedstats.gov/*

This source provides a myriad of current statistics from over 70 federal agencies on various topics. This is the place to look when searching for statistics within the United States.

**Statistical Abstract of the U.S.**

*http://www.census.gov:80/stat_abstract/*

The newest version of this classic paper source is now available online. The table of contents links to the most popular statistical subjects. Mosteconomic, population, social statistics can be found in the Stat Abstracts.

**The Social Statistics Briefing Room**

*http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/ssbr.html*

The Whitehouse has compiled text and links to frequently requested social and economic statistics: population, crime, literacy, and cost of living.

**University of Michigan's Statistical Resources on the Web**

*http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/stats.html*

These statistical links can answer almost any question in the subject areas of agriculture, demographics, energy, foreign governments, housing, military, science, sociology, and more.

## Health - Statistics

**50 facts from the World Health Organization Report 1996**

*http://www.who.ch/whr/1996/50facts.htm*

This summary of the WHO annual report provides general population and health statistics for the world.

**Center for Disease Control - Search Engine**

*http://www.cdc.gov/search.htm*

This site at the Center for Disease Control allows keyword searching for statistical reports on a number of subjects from teen birth rates to sexually transmitted diseases.

**US Health & Human Services - Consumer Information**

*http://odphp2.osophs.dhhs.gov/consumer.htm#subjects*

This source provides links as well as text for a variety of health subjects from Alzheimers to Domestic Violence to Nutrition. Information provided consists of general and statistical coverage, depending on the subject.

**World Health Organization - Statistical Information System**

*http://www.who.org/whosis/whosis.htm#databases*

This provides statistical information on many different diseases prevalentin the world.

## Immigration - Statistics

**Immigration & Naturalization Service**
*http://www.usdoj.gov/ins/public/index.html*
The Immigration and Naturalization Service produces two statistical sources relating to immigration and emigration: the Immigration to the United States and Immigration Fact Sheet (historical information on immigration to the U.S.). This is where to find how many immigrants, from which countries, which occupations they occupy, and much more.

## International

**Statistical Agencies International**
*http://www.census.gov/main/www/stat_int.html*
The US Census bureau has listed links to many nations' statistical bureaus. Most of the data provided is in English as well as the language of origin.

**Latin American Statistical Sources**
*http://lib1library.cornell.edu/colldev/lastatistics.html*
Provides links to various Latin American countries' demographic and economic statistical agencies. Cornell University sponsors this site.

## National Debt - Statistics

**Bureau of Public Debt**
*http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov/opd/opd.htm*
This site provides extensive statistics on the cost of public debt currently as well as historically.

## Traffic - Statistics

**Crash Information - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**
*http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/ncsa/ovrfacts.html*
This government organization is a source of statistics of all kinds related to traffic and traffic safety.

**Traffic Safety Facts - 1995**
*http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/ncsa/occfacts.html*
Great statistics here regarding safety restraints, alcohol, lives lost/saved, etc.

## Youth - Statistics

**US Dept. of Health & Human Services - Youth Statistics**
*http://youth.os.dhhs.gov/*
Here one can find statistics on the health of youth. Topics covered include teen pregnancy, drug abuse, violence, and more.

## Conclusion

Although we didn't include web sites for every topic that information professionals need in order to meet the variety of research questions that students will bring to the school or public library, it is clear that the Internet does offer much to the field of reference service. The Internet is not the tool to use for every reference transaction. In fact, its usefulness is dependent of several factors, including the size of the library, the type of question, and the expertise and comfort level of the staff who has access to it. However, the Internet has added another dimension to reference work, and many details associated with it, including evaluation, accessibility, and commercial interests, will require much more dialogue in the library literature before guidelines can be finalized.

Despite the challenges associated with using the Internet as a reference tool, the staff at the Mesa Public Library as well as other school and public libraries in our community utilize this bibliography on a regular basis through the Mesa Library's homepage. We've found that the Youth Services staff is sending fewer patrons to the Adult Reference Desk because they have access to more resources via the Internet, and the Reference Staff, in turn, is better equipped to handle questions regarding primary sources, statistics and current events. We invite other informational professionals to regularly visit our site, entitled Student Research at http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/library/Azlabtw7.htm.

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*Appendix A*

# Components of a Good Web Resource

Compiled* by Mary Beth Burgoyne
Electronic Resources Coordinator
Mesa Public Library

Content: Is the material at this site useful, unique, accurate, or is it derivative, repetitious or doubtful? What is the coverage? Broad? Specialized? Selective? Comprehensive? Any value-added features or content?

Authority: Credibility of the person(s)/agency responsible for developing/providing the material. What is their institutional affiliation, if any, or what other credentials do they bring to the site? Is the name, position, background and e-mail address of the person given?

Currency: Does the site have clear and obvious pointers to the new content? Is the site updated on a regular basis? If so, how often — and is the time frame reasonable for the content? Is the update/revision/effectiveness date noted on the home page?

Organization: Is the information easy to get to? The three-click rule helps here. If it takes more than three clicks to get to something useful or interesting, then it is buried too deep. Is the organization easily grasped or are there hidden layers that are difficult to discover? Is the arrangement of links uncluttered? Do they use an outline or menu structure for their links? Is the information broken down into logical and digestible parts? Is the most important information displayed on the first screen or do you need to scroll endlessly? Does it have navigation buttons such as "return to home page," or "back" and "forward" on each page? Is there a copyright and/or acceptable use statement? Does the source have advertisements on it? Is it clear they are advertisements?

Search Engine: In most cases a search engine is essential, though many sites do not have any. To be helpful, the search engine should have instructions on usage. Boolean capabilities, keyword searching in both subject and title fields, speed and completeness. The output should be well-formatted and easily understood. Relevance-ranked searches are particularly helpful at sites with large databases.

Accessibility: Is the site available on a consistent basis at various times: mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekends? Is response time fast? Sites should have text-based alternative pages and no dead-end links.

Graphics: If using a GUI browser, is the site pleasing to look at? Is it graphic intensive, taking a long time to download and paint to the screen? Does it use a mixture of graphics such as pictures, radio buttons, lines, tables, marquees, multimedia? Is the

background subtle or does it hinder reading the screen? Visual impact is accomplished with shape and color. Do font size and type color vary? Is the text width more than five inches across the screen? Are blocks of text broken up? A full computer screen of text causes eye strain. Does the source have advertisements on it? Do the advertisements clutter the content and real purpose of the site?

Other features: More and more resources on the Internet are incorporating value-added features to draw users. Does the site offer an e-mail address find? Reviews, ratings or annotations? Does it have newswire stories, links to related Web sites? Detailed instructions or help screens available as needed?

*Compiled from "Beyond Cuising: Reviewing," *Library Journal*, February 15, 1996, p. 123 and MB. Burgoyne's "Six Criteria to Use in Evaluating Reference Material" bibliographic instruction handout.